Province-Desert Ecosystem (3130-39) is the only ecosystem represented in the Sand Butte WSA. The following table summarizes the potential wilderness acres nationwide and statewide that represent this ecosystem.

TABLE F-6

GREAT BASIN PROVINCE-DESERT ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION

	NWPS AREAS		Endorsed Areas 1/		Other Study Areas 1/	
Geographic Area	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Nationwide	1	43,243	0	0	11	851,891
Idaho	1	43,243	0	0	10	628,175

1/ Forest Service data included in these figures are subject to change pending the outcome of ongoing Forest Service studies.

Only Craters of the Moon Wilderness (43,243 acres) in Idaho represents the Great Basin Province - Desert Ecosystem in the National Wilderness Preservation System. There are no areas endorsed by the President and pending before Congress that represent the 3130-39 ecosystem. However, there are ten other BLM wilderness study areas in Idaho that have representation of the ecosystem. The Sand Butte WSA is adjacent to the Raven's Eye WSA that also represents the 3130-39 ecosystem.

The Sand Butte is smaller than most other WSAs that represent the 3130-39 ecosystem. Its designation as wilderness would, however, increase the acreage currently represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System by 48 percent. Its designation would also double the number of areas with this ecosystem in the NWPS.

Solitude and Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Two metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) that qualify as major population centers, the Boise and the Salt Lake City-Ogden areas, are within five hours driving time of the WSA. Table F-5 summarizes the opportunities available from each MSA.

Geographic Distribution. In the region surrounding Idaho, the existing NWPS areas are concentrated in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in California, the Cascade Mountain Range in Oregon and Washington, and in the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. There are very few wilderness areas in Nevada, Utah, southeast Oregon, and southern Idaho.

Manageability

This WSA could be effectively managed to maintain the benefits of wilderness designation. However, management of livestock in the WSA would introduce nonconforming, but allowable, activities into the WSA. Water hauling for livestock and associated roads and facilities is the main nonconforming use. There is potential for converting sheep use to cattle use. Cattle use would require additional water facilities to maintain the range in its present condition.

At least one water facility with water troughs and an access road would be necessary. It is also possible that a well would be needed. Although the visual impact of the facilities could be minimized from a distance, at close range they would be obvious physical imprints. Water hauling on roads would occur in the spring and fall, which corresponds to periods that are most likely to receive the highest visitor use.

Although these nonconforming uses are allowable, they would affect naturalness. Daily use of trucks inside the area during periods of heavy visitor use would affect the quality of solitude available in the WSA.

The boundary configuration of the WSA creates potential for other manageability problems. A large parcel of land that juts two miles into the south side of the WSA does not conform to any topographic feature that would make the boundary easy to recognize. The fire lines within the parcel are not used as roads and are not easily recognized as boundaries. The primary management problem in this part of the WSA would be with ORVs straying into the area. This could be controlled by closing the lands in the parcel to ORV use. The road that serves as the southern boundary of the WSA could also be used as the boundary of the ORV closure.

Raven's Eye Wilderness Study Area (WSA (57-10)

Evaluation of Wilderness Values

Quality of the Area's Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics.

Naturalness. The WSA appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Nine minor human imprints have been identified in the WSA by the inventory. None of these imprints can be attributed to activities that occur outside the WSA.

A description of each human imprint identified in the inventory follows.

1. A way located in T. 2 S., R. 22 E., Sections 1, 2, 10, and 11 extends 1.9 miles into the WSA from a State section along the eastern boundary. Vegetation is low in the middle of the way and ruts are worn deep. The way is regularly used for access to sheep camps. Low vegetation around the road does not limit visibility as much as higher brush would. In general, the way is not visible on the ground from more than 50 yards away.

   The way is visible from about 69 acres in the WSA. It could be seperated from the unit by moving the boundary from the eastern boundary road to the lava's edge, the nearest topographic feature. This removes a total of 3,050 acres from the WSA.

2. A way located in T. 2 S., R. 22 E., Sections 34 and 35, extends 1.5 miles into the WSA from the eastern boundary road. Use of the way is light and irregular. Vegetation is high in the center of the way and is also growing in the ruts. Brushy vegetation limits visibility of the road from the ground. In general, the way is not visible on the ground from more than ten years away. The way is visible from about eleven acres of the WSA.

3. A way located in T. 3 S., R. 22 E., Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, and 15, and in T. 3 S., R. 21 E., Sections 11, 12, 14, and 15, extends 6.2 miles through the WSA from the east boundary road to the south boundary road. In addition, another 1.8 miles of the road has been cherry-stemmed out of the WSA. The way is not regularly used and in some places has been obliterated by drifting sand. The terrain that the way traverses is extremely rugged and this terrain, combined with the brush, limits the visibility of the road. In general, the way is not visible on the ground from more than 20 yards away. The way can be seen from 90 acres of the WSA.

4. A way in T. 3 S., R. 22 E., Sections 15, 16, 21, 22, and 28 extends 4.8 miles through the WSA from the way described in 3. above to the southern boundary unit. The way does not receive regular use. Vegetation is growing high in the center of the way, and, in some portions, is growing in the ruts. Brushy vegetation limits the visibility of the way along most of its length. In general, the way is not visible on the ground from more than ten yards away. The way can be seen from about 35 acres of the WSA.

5. A way in T. 3 S., R. 22 E., Sections 25 and 26 extends .5 miles into the WSA from the east boundary road. The way receives little use and vegetation is growing in the ruts and high in the center part of the way. Surrounding vegetation limits the visibility of the way. In general, the way is not visible on the ground from more than ten yards away. The way can be seen from about four acres of the WSA.

6. A way in T. 3 S., R. 22 E., Section 34, and T. 4 S., R. 22 E., Section 3, extends .7 miles into the WSA from the southern boundary

road. The way receives little use. Vegetation is growing in the ruts and high in the center of the way. Brushy vegetation close to the way screens it from view in most places. In general, the way is not visible on the gound from more than ten yards away. The way can be seen from about five acres in the WSA.

7. A fence, approximately five miles in length, is located on the section line between sections 30 and 29, 19 and 20, 18 and 17, 7 and 8, and 6 and 5 in T. 3 S., R. 22 E. It also extends into Section 31 in T. 2 S., R. 22 E. The fence is noticeable from a short distance, but doesn't significantly affect naturalness. The fence can be seen from about 182 acres of the WSA.

8. A fence enclosure, located in T. 3 S., R. 22 E., Section 1, affects less than five acres of the WSA.

9. A fence, approximately .7 miles in length, is located in T. 3 S., R. 21 E., Sections 10 and 15. The fence is noticeable for a short distance, but doesn't significantly affect the naturalness of the WSA. The fence is noticeable from about 26 acres of the WSA.

10. An aerial seeding of crested wheatgrass covers 1,140 acres in T. 3 S., R. 22 E., Sections 7, 16, 19, and T. 3 S., R. 21 E., Sections 12 and 13.

    The seeding was done in 1973 and was not considered to be successful. The seeding is broken into numerous small pockets broken up by the rocky terrain in the WSA. None of the pockets are larger than ten acres in size. Since the seeded areas have very indefinite boundaries, a boundary adjustment to seperate them from the WSA is not feasible. Since the various pockets of crested wheatgrass are interspersed with natural vegetation and rocky outcrops, the effect on naturalness is minimal.

In addition to the above imprints, two fires have burned into portions of the WSA along the southwestern boundary. Minor imprints that may have resulted from fire suppression activities have been rehabilitated. Emergency seedings to prevent wind erosion used a mixture of crested wheatgrass and native grasses. Cheatgrass has invaded some burned areas. Although the original appearance of some burned areas has changed, burning of small areas enhances natural processes that are fire dependent.

Some sights and sounds from outside the WSA are also present. The roads that form the northern and eastern boundaries receive daily traffic in the summer months. The southern boundary road is used regularly, but not daily. Traffic on these roads can be seen inside the WSA. Such traffic is noticeable from as far away as a mile over flat terrain. However, uneven terrain in this WSA diminishes the distance vehicles on boundary roads can be seen. Sounds from vehicle traffic can also be heard a short distance inside the WSA. The distance that sound will carry varies substantially with different weather conditions.

Agricultural activity on private land adjacent to the western boundary can also be seen and heard from the extreme western edge of the WSA. Most of the boundary follows legal subdivisions, but is actually inside the edge of new lava flows. Most of the sights from agricultural acitvity are screened a hundred yards inside the lava flow. Sounds from the agricultural activity can be heard a short distance inside the WSA.

About four miles of U.S. Highway 93 is within a mile of the western boundary of the WSA. A short portion of the highway comes within a quarter-mile of the WSA. Sights from traffic on the highway are screened from most of the unit by the lava edge. Sounds may carry a short distance into the WSA, but this distance varies with weather conditions.

All of the above sights and sounds diminish the benefits of wilderness designation to a minor degree. However, the magnitude of these outside sights and sounds, individually or in combination, is so slight that they do not affect the naturalness of the WSA.

Solitude.

Size and Configuration. The Raven's Eye WSA contains 67,110 acres of public land and 1,920 acres of State land. The boundary configuration does not adversely affect solitude.

Topographic Screening. Elevations above sea level range from 4,600 feet in the southern part of the WSA to 5,003 feet at the summit of Spud Butte. The surface of the WSA is covered with several different lava flows. The most recent flow, part of the Craters of the Moon Lava Flow, covers two-thirds of the unit. Older flows contain three volcanic cones, Spud Butte, Broken Top Butte, and an unnamed cone north of Wagon Butte.

Older flows have weathered and collected wind-blown soils. A sparse, brushy vegetion can be found on the older flows. The newer Craters of the Moon Flow is virtually bare of vegetation and has a rough surface broken by numerous pressure ridges, lava cascades, subsidence craters, lava blisters, and other lava features. Both pahoehoe (ropy) and aa (broken clinker like) lava flows can be found in the WSA.

The rugged terrain that predominates throughout most of the WSA provides excellent topographic screening. When the relatively large size of the unit is also considered, the quality of solitude in this WSA is among the best opportunities for solitude in Idaho.

Vegetative Screening. Vegeation in the WSA provides only minimal screening between visitors. The brush canopy on older flows averages

four feet in height. On the newer lava flows, brush is so scarce that it has no screening effect.

Presence of Outside Sights and Sounds. Outside sights and sounds have been discussed under naturalness. From high points in the WSA, boundary roads and traffic may be visible. Broken Top Butte and Spud Butte offer a tremendous vista of grasslands and lava flows that enhance the feeling of solitude in spite of minor outside sights and sounds.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The diversity of primitive recreation opportunities available in the WSA center on rugged volcanic features and the extreme desert environment of the area. Primitive hiking, camping, and hunting opportunities of outstanding quality are offered by the unit. Rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, absence of trails, and extreme environmental conditions add elements of risk and challenge to recreational opportunities. For many, these elements enhance primitive recreation.

Spelunking in lava tube caves, photography, and nature study are other high quality recreational opportunities offered by the WSA. Recreation opportunities are dispersed throughout the WSA. None of the features would cause visitor use to concentrate in small areas.

Little winter use is anticipated, although the WSA offers opportunities for winter camping and ski touring. Extremely high summer temperatures concentrate most use into the spring and fall seasons.

Quality of the Area's Optional Wilderness Characteristics. The geological significance of the recent and older lava flows is the primary supplemental value in the WSA. The Craters of the Moon Lava Flow in the WSA exhibits many distinctive features that illustrate volcanic processes. Spatter cones can be found in the central portion of the WSA. These spatter cones are a rare feature on any of the Snake River Plains lava flows, and are some of the best examples of this feature outside the Craters of the Moon Lava Flow. Lava tube caves with associated lava spelotherms are known to exist in the WSA. Lava cascades, pressure ridges, lava blisters, and other features are found throughout the WSA. A rift feature connects the spatter cones to Broken Top Butte and Sand Butte.

Some extensive prehistoric sites are known to exist in the WSA. These sites are marked by surface lithic scatters. Palentological sites have been discovered in lava tubes.

Multiple Resource Benefits.

Multiple Resource Values (MRVs) That Already Exist. None of the MRVs or uses that currently exist in the WSA require wilderness designation to continue. Other management actions could assure that current MRVs or uses would continue.

Multiple Resource Values That Don't Exist Now. The protective status of wilderness designation would not result in new multiple resource values.

Special Benefits to off-Site Areas. No significant benefits would accrue to off-site areas as a result of wilderness designation of the WSA.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Ecosystem Diversity. The BLM has classified its WSAs according to criteria of the Bailey-Kuchler Ecosystems of the United States system used by the Forest Service in its RARE II studies. The Bailey-Kuchler Great Basin Province-Desert Ecosystem (3130-39) is the only ecosystem represented in the Raven's Eye WSA. Tabel F-6 summarizes the potential wilderness acres nationwide and statewide that represent this ecosystem.

Only the Craters of the Moon Wilderness (43,243 acres) in Idaho represents the Great Basin Province-Desert Ecosystem in the National Wilderness Preservation System. There are no areas endorsed by the Prsident and pending before Congress that represent the 3130-39 ecosystem. However, there are ten other BLM wilderness study areas in Idaho that have representation of the ecosystem.

Solitude and Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Two metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) that qualify as major population centers, the Boise and the Salt Lake City-Ogden areas, are within five hours driving time of the WSA. Table F-5 summarizes the opportunities available from each MSA.

Geographic Distribution. In the region surrounding Idaho, the existing NWPS areas are concentrated in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in California, the Cascade Mountain Range in Oregon and Washington, and in the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. There are very few wilderness areas in Nevada, Utah, southeast Oregon, and southern Idaho.

Manageability

This WSA can be effectively managed to preserve all wilderness values in the area. However, management of livestock in the WSA would introduce nonconforming, but allowable, activities into the WSA. Water hauling, and associated roads and facilities, for livestock is the main nonconforming use. There is the possibility that the sheep use currently occuring in the area would be converted to cattle use. Cattle use would require additional water facilities and fencing to maintain the range in its present condition.

At least one water facility with water troughs and an access road would be necessary. It is also possible that a well would need to be located inside the WSA. Although the visual impact of the facilities could be minimized from a distance, at close range they would be obvious physical imprints. Water hauling on roads would occur mainly in the spring and fall, which corresponds to periods that are most likely to receive the highest visitor use.

Although these noconforming uses are allowable, they would affect naturalness. Daily use of trucks inside the area during periods of heavy visitor use would affect the quality of solitude available in the WSA.

Three State land section inholdings in the WSA could present manageability problems related to access. If access roads were developed to each inholding, the wilderness characteristics of naturalness and solitude would be degraded. It is not likely that such development would take place since the cost of developing access exceeds the known resource values of the lands involved. The Idaho State Department of Lands has notified BLM that, if the WSA were designated wilderness, an exchange of State land inside the area for public lands elsewhere would be necessary.

Little Deer Wilderness Study Area (WSA 57-11)

Evaluation of Wilderness Values

Quality of Area's Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics.

Naturalness. The Little Deer WSA generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The wilderness inventory identified six minor imprints within the WSA. None of these can be attributed to activities that occur outside the WSA.

A description of each human imprint identified in the inventory follows.

1. A way located in T. 2 S., R. 22 E., Section 25, and in T. 2 S., R. 23 E., Section 30, extends 1.5 miles into the WSA from the western boundry road. Vegetation is high in the center of the way and, in some places, it is growing in the ruts. This indicates that the way is used infrequently. Brush surrounding the way on either side limits the visibility of the way from a distance. In general, the way is not visible from more than ten yards away. The way can be seen from eleven acres of the WSA.

2. A way located in T. 3 S., R. 22 E., Section 1, and T. 3 S., R. 23 E., Sections 6 and 7, extends 1.9 miles into the WSA from the western boundary road. Vegetation is high in the center of the way and, in some places, it is growing in the ruts. This indicates that the way is used infrequently. Brush surrounding the way on either side limits the visibility of the way from a distance. In general, the way is not visible from more than ten yards away. The way can be seen from fourteen acres of the WSA.

3. A way located in T. 3 S., R. 23 E., Sections 18 and 19, extends .5 miles into the WSA from the western boundary road. Vegetation in the center of the way is low. The way is used for access to a sheep camp. Brush surrounding the way helps to screen the way from view. In general, the way cannot be seen from more than ten yards away. The way can be seen from four acres of the WSA.

4. A way located in T. 2 S., R. 23 E., Section 3, extends .3 miles into the WSA from one of the northern boundary raods. Vegetation is high in the center of the way and is growing in the ruts of the way. This indicates that the way is used infrequently. Brush surrounding the way helps to screen the way from view. In general, the way cannot be seen from more than ten yards away. The way can be seen from two acres of the WSA.

5. A way located in T. 2 S., R. 23 E., Sections 1 and 2, extends .7 miles into the WSA from the northern boundary road. Vegetation is growing high in the center of the way and it receives infrequent use. Brush surrounding the way helps to screen it from view. In general, this way cannot be seen from more than ten yards away. The way can be seen from five acres in the WSA.

6. A way located in T. 2 S., R. 23 E., Section 1, extends .2 miles into the WSA from the northern boundary roads. This short way is a very faint track with vegetation obscuring much of the track. Screening from surrounding vegetation makes the way impossible to see from ten yards away. The way can be seen from one acre in the WSA.

The only outside sights and sounds that affect the WSA are those from the traffic on boundary roads. Roads on the north and west receive vehicle use daily during summer months. Traffic on the western boundary road is visible back to the edge of the new lava flow. The gently rolling grasslands on this

side of the WSA provide little screening for traffic. Traffic on the northern boundary roads through Little Park is visible through most of the WSA that is in Little Park. Inside the lava flows, the rough terrain screens most boundary road traffic from sight. Sounds from traffic can be heard inside the WSA, but the distance that this sound will carry varies drastically with different weather conditions.

None of the outside sights and sounds that affect the WSA are so imposing that they seriously impair the benefits of wilderness designation. However, all of the outside sights and sounds diminish the benefits of wilderness designation to a minor degree.

Solitude.

Size and Configuration. The Little Deer WSA contains 33,531 acres of public land and 640 acres of State land. Two problems with the boundary configuration exist. The narrow part of the WSA in the extreme southern portion of the WSA increases the susceptability of that area to outside sights and sounds. The impact of outside sights and sounds would be mitigated to some degree if the Great Rift WSA, which is contiguous (the units are seperated by a road), is designated wilderness.

The other configuration problem involves State land sections that jut into the WSA from the boundary. The most extreme case involves Section 16, T. 2 S., R. 23 E. This section is surrounded completely by the WSA, except for a 200-foot portion of the east side which intersects the eastern boundary of the WSA. Since this section is covered with new lava flows, development seems unlikely. However, should development occur, it would probably degrade opportunities for solitude in a portion of the WSA.

Topographic Screening. Elevations in the WSA range from 4,600 feet to 5,030 feet above sea level. There are no prominent buttes or volcanic cones in the WSA. A portion of the Craters of the Moon Lava Flow runs along the eastern edge of the WSA. This lava flow occupies about two-thirds of the WSA. It is an extremely rugged aa-type lava flow. Screening in the lava flow is very good because of the irregular surface.

Outside the newer lava flow are old weathered flows that have developed sufficient soil to support grassland vegetation. The grassland terrain is gently rolling and provides little topographic screening.

Vegetative Screening. Vegetation in the WSA provides only minimal screening between visitors. In areas where sufficient soil has

developed to support vegetation, the brush canopy averages four feet. On the new lava flows, vegetation is so sparse that it has no screening value at all.

Presence of Outside Sights and Sounds. Outside sights and sounds have been discussed under naturalness.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The diversity of primitive recreation opportunities available in the WSA center on rugged volcanic features and the extreme desert environment of the area. Primitive hiking, camping, and hunting opportunities of outstanding quality are offered by the unit. Rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, absence of trails, and extreme environmental conditions add elements of risk and challenge to recreational opportunities. For many, these elements enhance primitive recreation.

Photography and nature study are other high quality recreational opportunities offered by the WSA. Recreation opportunities are dispersed throughout the WSA. None of the features would cause visitor use to concentrate in small areas.

Little winter use is anticipated, although the WSA offers opportunities for winter camping and ski touring. Extremely high summer temperatures concentrate most use into the spring and fall seasons.

Quality of the Area's Optional Wilderness Characteristics. The geological significance of recent lava flows is the primary supplemental value in the WSA. A portion of the Craters of the Moon Lava Flow is located in the WSA. This flow was created by a volcanic eruption that may have occurred within the last four thousand years. The flow exhibits many distinctive features that illustrate volcanic processes such as lava cascade, lava blisters, and pressure ridges.

Multiple Resource Benefits.

Multiple Resource Values (MRVs) That Already Exist. None of the MRVs or uses that currently exist in the WSA require wilderness designation to continue. Other management actions could assure that current MRVs or uses would continue.

Multiple Resource Values That Don't Exist Now. The protective status of wilderness designation would not result in new multiple resource values.

Special Benefits to Off-Site Areas. No significant benefits would accrue to off-site areas as a result of wilderness designation of the WSA.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Ecosystem Diversity. The BLM has classified its WSAs according to criteria of the Bailey-Kuchler Ecosystems of the United States system used by the Forest Service in its RARE II studies. The Bailey-Kuchler Great Basin Province-Desert Ecosystem (3130-39) is the only ecosystem represented in the Little Deer WSA. Table F-6 summarizes the potential wilderness acres nationwide and statewide that represent this ecosystem.

Only Craters of the Moon Wilderness (43,243 acres) in Idaho represents the Great Basin Province-Desert Ecosystem in the National Wilderness Preservation System. There are no areas endorsed by the President and pending before Congress that represent the 3130-39 ecosystem. However, there are ten other BLM wilderness study areas in Idaho that have representation of the ecosystem.

Solitude and Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Two metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) that qualify as major population centers, the Boise and the Salt Lake City-Ogden areas, are within five hours driving time of the WSA. Table F-5 summarizes the opportunities available from each MSA.

Geographic Distribution. In the region surrounding Idaho, the existing NWPS areas are concentrated in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in California, the Cascade Mountain Range in Oregon and Washington, and in the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. There are very few wilderness areas in Nevada, Utah, southeast Oregon, and southern Idaho.

Manageability

This WSA can be effectively managed to provide long-term protection of all wilderness values in the area. The only nonconforming activity required for livestock management would be occasional vehicle use on cherrystem roads

and ways for the placement of sheep camps. Such use is allowable, but would affect naturalness and opportunities for solitude.

If access is developed to a State land inholding, naturalness in that part of the WSA would be impaired. Since most of the State land section is covered with a recent lava flow, there is no reason to expect the section will be developed. However, the Idaho Department of Lands has notified BLM that, should the area be designated wilderness, they would like to exchange the section for land located outside of wilderness.

Bear Den Butte Wilderness Study Area (WSA 57-14)

Evaluation of Wilderness Values

Quality of the Area's Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics.

Naturalness. The WSA appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. Three minor imprints have been identified in the WSA by the inventory. None of these imprints can be attributed to activities that occur outside the WSA.

A description of each imprint identified in the inventory follows.

1. A way located in T. 3 S., R. 24 E., Sections 23, 26, and 27, extends .7 miles into the WSA from the southern boundary road. The way is completely overgrown with vegetation and has not been used for several years. Screening vegetation around the way and vegetation growing in the way limit its visibility. In general, the way cannot be seen from more than five yards away. The way can be seen from 2.5 acres of the WSA.

2. A way located in T. 3 S., R. 25 E., Section 8, extends .8 miles into the WSA from the eastern boundary road. The way goes up the east side of Bear Den butte to the sites of a sheep camp on the summit of the butte. The way is used annually and erosion has kept vegetation from becoming re-established in the way. Its location on the side of the butte makes it highly visible from the eastern part of the WSA. The way can be seen from approximately 400 acres of the WSA.

3. A fence line extends into the unit 100 feet from the boundary road to the lava's edge in Section 27, T. 3 S., R. 24 E. The fence can be seen from less than two acres of the WSA.

Some sights and sounds from outside the WSA are also present on occasion. The roads that serve as boundaries around the entire WSA receive vehicular traffic. None of these roads are used on a daily basis during the summer, so traffic is relatively light. However, when vehicles are on the roads, they can be seen and heard within the WSA. Vehicles on the western boundary road would be visible from the grassland fringe and the lava flow's edge. Vehicle use on the eastern side of the WSA would be visible from some of the grassland. Bear Den Butte and a smaller unnamed butte would screen traffic on these roads from some of the grassland area.

Although traffic would also be visible from the lava flow's edge on the east or west side of the flow, the irregular terrain inside the lava flow would screen most sights of traffic on boundary roads. The northern boundary road, which cuts through the lava flow, is also screened fairly well by topographic features within the lava flow.

Sounds from vehicle use of roads can be heard in the WSA. The distance such noise can be heard varies considerably with weather conditions.

All of the above sights and sounds diminish the benefits of wilderness designation to a minor degree. However, the magnitude of these sights and sounds, individually or in combination, is so slight that they do not affect the naturalness of the WSA.

Solitude.

Size and Configuration. The Bear Den Butte WSA is 9,700 acres in size. The boundary configuration does not adversely affect solitude. Since the WSA is adjacent to the Great Rift WSA, some benefits for solitude based on large size can be realized in this WSA even though it is relatively small.

Topographic Screening. Elevations above sea level range from 4,600 feet in the southern part of the unit to 5,104 feet at the summit of Bear Den Butte. Bear Den Butte and another unnamed butte on the west side of the WSA provide some topographic screening. The rugged, aa lava flow in the interior part of the WSA also provides excellent topographic screening. The gently rolling terrain of the grassland in the WSA does not provide much screening.,

Vegetative Screening. The grassland portions of the WSA are located on older lava flows that have collected enough soil to support vegetation. The brush canopy in these areas averages four feet in height and provides little screening between visitors.

There is only scarce vegetation on the newer lava flows. This vegetation has practically no screening value.

Presence of Outside Sights and Sounds. Outside sights and sounds have been discussed under naturalness. From high points in the WSA, boundary roads and traffic is visible. From the summit of Bear Den Butte, the tremendous vista of the vast Great Rift Lava Flows and the Pioneer Mountains make the infrequently traveled boundary roads seem rather insignificant. The impact of these outside sights is very minor when compared to the feeling of remoteness that accompanies the views from the various high points in the WSA.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The diversity of recreation opportunities available in the WSA center on rugged volcanic features and the extreme desert environment of the area. Primitive hiking, camping, and hunting opportunities of outstanding quality are offered by the unit. Rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, absence of trails, and extreme environmental conditions add elements of risk and challenge to recreational opportunities. For many, these elements enhance primitive recreation.

Little winter use is anticipated. Extremely high summer temperatures concentrate most of the use into the spring and fall seasons.

Quality of the Area's Optional Wilderness Characteristics. The geological significance of the recent and older lava flows is the primary supplemental value in the WSA. The lava flow in the WSA exhibits several distinctive features that illustrate volcanic processes. A lava tube cave associated with a long lava tube from Bear Den Butte is in the WSA.

Multiple Resource Benefits.

Multiple Resource Values (MRVs) That Already Exist. None of the MRVs or uses that currently exist in the WSA require wilderness designation to continue. Other management actions could assure that current MRVs or uses would continue.

Multiple Resource Values That Don't Exist Now. The protective status of wilderness designation would not result in new multiple resource values.

Special Benefits to Off-Site Areas. No significant benefits would accrue to off-site areas as a result of wilderness designation of the WSA.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Ecosystem Diversity. The BLM has classified its WSAs according to criteria of the Bailey-Kuchler Ecosystems of the United States system used by the Forest Service in its RARE II studies. The Bailey-Kuchler Great Basin Province-Desert Ecosystem (3130-39) is the only ecosystem represented in the Bear Den Butte WSA. Tabel F-6 summarizes the potential wilderness acres nationwide and statewide that represent this ecosystem.

Only the Craters of the Moon Wilderness (43,243 acres) in Idaho represents the Great Basin Province-Desert Ecosystem in the National Wilderness Preservation System. There are no areas endorsed by the President and pending before Congress that represent the 3130-39 ecosystem. However, there are ten other BLM wilderness study areas in Idaho that have representation of the ecosystem.

Solitude and Primitive Recreation Opportunities. Two metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) that qualify as major population centers, the Boise and the Salt Lake City-Ogden areas, are within five hours driving time of the WSA. Table F-5 summarizes the opportunities available from each MSA.

Geographic Distribution. In the region surrounding Idaho, the existing NWPS areas are concentrated in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in California, the Cascade Mountain Range in Oregon and Washington, and in the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. There are very few wilderness areas in Nevada, Utah, southeast Oregon, and southern Idaho.

Manageability

This WSA can be effectively managed to preserve all wilderness values over a long-term period. The only nonconforming use from livestock management involves vehicular access to the summit of Bear Den Butte. Although the use of vehicles in wilderness to manage livestock is allowable, it should be possible to find an alternate site for sheep camps. Use of the steep way leading to the summit of Bear Den Butte causes unacceptable damage to the soil through erosion. Use of the way should be discontinued regardless of whether the area becomes wilderness or not.

There are no State of private inholdings inside the WSA, so there are no access problems.

Shoshone Wilderness Study Area (WSA 59-7)

Evaluation of Wilderness Values

Quality of the Area's Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics.

Naturalness. The WSA appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. No human imprints inside the WSA were identified in the inventory.

A few minor sights and sounds from outside the WSA are noticeable on occasion. A main line of the Union Pacific Railroad is less than a mile from a portion of the southern boundary of the WSA. Although the trains using the railroad can be seen from the edge of the WSA, the rugged terrain inside the WSA screens most sights of the railroad. Sounds from railroad traffic could carry into the WSA, but the distance varies greatly with weather conditions.

Agricultural activity on both the north and south side of the WSA can be seen and heard from the WSA. As with the railroad, the rugged terrain on the interior of the WSA screens these sights from the majority of the WSA.

The east and west boundary roads carry traffic that can be seen in the WSA. The west boundary road is infrequently used. The east boundary road receives use all year with several vehicles a day on the road. In general, this traffic can be seen only two to three hundred yards inside the WSA before the terrain blocks the view. Sounds from the road traffic also carry into the WSA. The distance the sound travels varies with weather conditions.

All of the above sights and sounds diminish the benefits of wilderness designation to a minor degree. However, the magnitude of these sights and sounds is so slight that they do not affect the naturalness of the WSA.

Solitude.

Size and Configuration. The Shoshone WSA is 6,914 acres in size. Its boundary configuration is relatively narrow, but this does not adversely affect solitude.

Topographic Screening. Elevations above sea level range from 3,781 feet on the west end of the WSA to 3,970 feet on the east end. Although there is relatively little variation in elevation, the WSA

is completely covered with a recent lava flow. Pressure ridges, lava blisters, and subsidence craters create a very uneven surface that provides plenty of topographic screening between visitors.

Vegetative Screening. Vegetation is scarce in the WSA because little soil has developed on the lava flows. The vegetation that does exist has practically no screening value.

Presence of Outside Sights and Sounds. Outside sights and sounds have been discussed under naturalness.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. The diversity of recreation opportunities available in the WSA center on rugged volcanic features and the extreme desert environment of the area. Primitive hiking, camping, and hunting opportunities of outstanding quality are offered by the unit. Rugged terrain, lack of reliable water sources, absence of trails, and extreme environmental conditions add elements of risk and challenge to recreational opportunities. For many, these elements enhance primitive recreation.

Little winter use is anticipated. Extremely high summer temperatures concentrate most of the use into the spring and fall seasons.

Quality of the Area's Optional Wilderness Characteristics. The geological significance of the recent lava flow is the primary supplemental value in the WSA. The lava flow in the WSA exhibits several distinctive features that illustrate volcanic processes.

Multiple Resource Benefits.

Multiple Resource Values (MRVs) That Already Exist. None of the MRVs or uses that currently exist in the WSA require wilderness designation to continue. Other management actions could assure that current MRVs or uses would continue.

Multiple Resource Values That Don't Exist Now. The protective status of wilderness designation would not result in new multiple resrouce values.